



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q66035

Hiromichi TAKEMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/940,510

Group Art Unit: 3682

Confirmation No.: 5221

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: August 29, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREDICTING THE LIFE OF A ROLLING BEARING, ROLLING BEARING SELECTION APPARATUS USING THE LIFE PREDICTION APPARATUS, AND STORAGE MEDIUM

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexic

Registration No. 23,063



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003. Also, enclosed is a European Office Action in a corresponding European Patent Application, citing the references enclosed with this IDS.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/940,510

Attorney Docket No.: Q66035

on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a statement can be made, a statement is submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

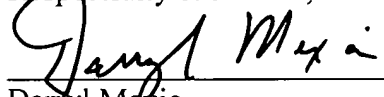
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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/940,510
Confirmation Number	5221
Filing Date	August 29, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hiromichi TAKEMURA
Art Unit	3682
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q66035

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 6,072,481	A	6/6/2000	MATSUSHITA ET AL.
		US 5,367,627	A	11/22/1994	JOHNSON
		US			
		US			
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		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		WO	99/45488	A1	9/10/1999	NORTHEAST EQUIPMENT, INC.	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		H. TAKEMURA, et al., "Development of a new life equation for ball and roller bearings", SAE TECHNICAL PAPER SERIES, NO. 2000-01-2601, September 11, 2000, XP001202109	
		H. TAKATA, et al., "Development of a new method for estimating the fatigue life of rolling bearings", ASME-STLE TRIBOLOGY CONFERENCE, October 1995, pages 11-16, XP008034842	
		E. IONNIDES et al., "A New Fatigue Life Model For Rolling Bearings", JOURNAL OF TRIBOLOGY, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, NEW YORK, NY, vol. 107, July 1985, pages 367-378, XP002949481	
		JAIDEEP AHLUWALIA et al., "Computer-Aided Optimum Selection of Roller Bearings", COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN, ELSEVIER PUBLISHERS BV., BARKING, GB, vol. 25, no. 8, August 1, 1993, pages 493-499, XP000385103	

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.